



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 403**

February Session, 2012

Substitute Senate Bill No. 85

*Senate, April 12, 2012*

The Committee on Environment reported through SEN. MEYER of the 12th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS AT CERTAIN STATE PARKS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-16a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
4 phase out the leases of camping sites at shore parks which the State  
5 Park and Forest Commission determined were, in the 1970 season,  
6 leased for more than three weeks in the aggregate to the same family  
7 by reducing their number equally each year, for the next five years.]

8 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection  
9 shall not lease camping sites at shore parks to the same family for more  
10 than three weeks during the period commencing on the Saturday  
11 before Memorial Day and ending on Labor Day. The commissioner  
12 shall (1) lease camping sites to the same family for additional days  
13 during such period, provided such family vacates the shore park for a

14 minimum of five days between leases, (2) lease camping sites prior to  
 15 or after such period to a family without regard to such family's  
 16 aggregate length of stay, or (3) during such period lease any vacant  
 17 camping sites on a first come, first served basis. The commissioner  
 18 may adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54  
 19 to establish limits on the length of camping site leases. The lease length  
 20 limitation in this subsection shall be effective until June 30, 2013, or  
 21 until such regulations are adopted, whichever is later.

22 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,  
 23 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
 24 establish a pilot program from April 16, 2013, to December 31, 2013,  
 25 inclusive, allowing five per cent of camping sites in shore parks to be  
 26 leased by the same family without a limitation on the number of days  
 27 leased. Notwithstanding the schedule of fees established pursuant to  
 28 section 23-16, the commissioner may charge a nightly fee of not more  
 29 than twice the amount charged for similar camping sites.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	23-16a
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***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In section 1(a), "up to" was deleted and the sentence was reworded for clarity, "lease length" was added for clarity, and "section" was changed to "subsection" for accuracy.

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 13 \$	FY 14 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to establish a pilot program that allows 5% of shore camping sites to be leased at a fee of up to two times the amount otherwise charged for similar sites under certain conditions.

The pilot program will result in a revenue gain to the state. The extent of which depends on how many camping sites are leased under the pilot program and the amount of the fee.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to fee changes.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 85*****AN ACT CONCERNING CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS AT CERTAIN STATE PARKS.*****SUMMARY:**

By law, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner may lease state park camping sites to state residents and nonresidents. Current law limits a family to no more than three weeks total each year at each shore park (i.e., Hammonasset and Rocky Neck).

This bill instead requires the DEEP commissioner to lease shore park camping sites to the same family for up to three weeks total from the Saturday before Memorial Day to Labor Day. It requires him to lease camping sites to the same family:

1. for additional days during this time period if the family leaves the park for at least five days between leases;
2. before and after this time period regardless of the family's total length of stay; or
3. during this time period on a first come, first served basis.

The bill authorizes the commissioner to adopt regulations to establish limits on the length of camping site leases. The bill's limitation is effective until June 30, 2013, or until regulations are adopted, whichever is later.

The bill also requires the commissioner to establish a pilot program for the 2013 camping season (i.e., April 16 to December 31) that allows 5% of shore park camping sites to be leased to the same family without a limitation on the number of days leased. For such sites, he may

charge a nightly fee of up to two times the amount otherwise charged for similar camping sites.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea    29    Nay   0    (03/23/2012)